

Headteachers' Blog

Wednesday 19 April 2023

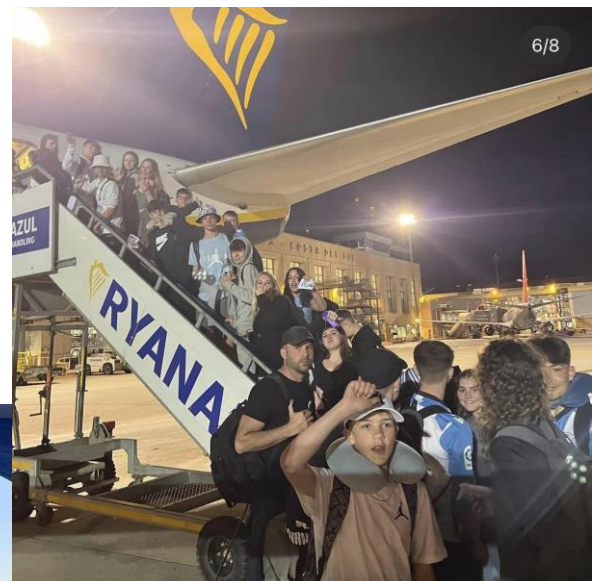


Welcome to the Summer term!

The Easter break was not a rest for many of us, as we ran trips and held revision classes. Let's start with the trips.

The first was the residential in France. This has not run for a number of years, so I was delighted when Mrs Standen said she wanted to reignite this trip, all part of our support for the study of languages. All was going well, until the trip reached Dover. The delays to border crossings meant that after too many hours sat motionless, the correct decision was made to turn back home. This was such a shame. We are working hard with the various companies involved to see what potential refund is available for families.

Using flight rather than sea, the Malaga Sports trip was more fortunate. The reports fed back to me tell me a number of things – the students were all wonderful ambassadors for our school, they had an amazing time, competed well, with the netball team winning in their tournament, and the city of Malaga was a wonderful host. I am always thankful that I have staff who give up their holiday to run these trips for the benefit of students. Not many professions would do this. Thank you to the families that made sacrifices to help their children attend and congratulations to the young people, who made great memories for themselves and for the staff that led them.



More photos can be found on our Stowmarket High School Facebook page



Back in Blighty, we ran two weeks of Year 11 GCSE revision classes. The attendance was good (this could always be better!) and the effort and attitude displayed was excellent. It is only 16 school days before the exams start, so all help and support is being pushed at Year 11 to help them achieve the very best grades they can.

I have led assemblies this week, pushing the message that the individual must recognise their challenges, and find ways to overcome them. Not blaming others, not expecting a miracle cure. Find the resilience and strength to overcome obstacles. That attitude, developed and honed in school, can build a mindset that can last a lifetime. Then, the future is brighter. The future – our business. The term has started well. The better weather is always welcomed, and the school pushes forward.

As ever, I thank you for your support. We cannot achieve our aims without you.

Mrs Goodman Head of Year 7

Mrs Goodman, is currently on long term medical leave. Mrs Broxton is coordinating our cover for Mrs Goodman's position, which is being spread across a number of staff. Mrs Broxton's email is c.broxton@stowhigh.com. We are sending all best wishes to Mrs Goodman and wish her a speedy recovery.

New staff

I am delighted to welcome the following new staff to our school:

Mr Daniels - Teacher of Maths
Miss Durrant - Attendance Officer
Mrs Utteridge - Teacher of Business Studies
Miss Elmer - LSA
Miss Manning - Cover Supervisor

Strike Day 27 April 2023

Unfortunately, it looks like we are heading toward another strike day on the 27 April 2023. We continue to focus as much resource as we can on Year 11, who are just days away from starting their GCSE's. The details are as follows:

The next NEU strike days are on the 27 April and the 2 May 2023. The school will be open to Year 11 students on both these days. Unfortunately, due to the potential numbers of staff not being in school, we are unable to make provision for students from other year groups.

The details below highlight our minimum provision for our students on the 27, but hopefully this can increase as the union has recently updated its guidance to its teachers in terms of provision that can be made for examination groups.

On the 27, we will do our best to be as flexible as we can be for our students. This means that:

Periods 2, 3 and 4, those students who are taking French and German, will be receiving language support in preparation of their spoken exams the following week. It is essential that students attend these mandatory sessions:

Period 2 – German

Period 3 – 11D French

Period 4 – 11B French

Students who have not yet achieved their English Spoken Endorsement will be given the opportunity to complete it. Students need this in order to be awarded their English GCSE.

For students not involved in the subjects above, they will follow the timetable below:

Period 1 Students engage in personal study – LRC and IT rooms available with staff support

Period 2 Maths

Period 3 Normal lessons or IT suite and private study if a teacher is absent

Period 4 Normal Lessons or the possibility of some English support

Lunch is available for students, including those students who are in receipt of free school meal.

A similar arrangement for Year 11 students will be in operation on the 2 May and further details will follow, next week.

Students are welcome to remain behind after lunch and use our facilities to get stuck into their revision.

Examinations during Strike Days

The important message is that all scheduled examinations will still take place on strike days. Students must attend their exams and it is important to be aware that there will be no further opportunity to take them, should they be missed. The following exams will be taking place:

27 April – Art Practical Exam

2 May – Photography Exam

2 May – French Speaking Exam

Mr Lee-Allan

Useful Contact Information:

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